

The House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications offers the following substitute to HB 288:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 1 of Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 general provisions relating to public utilities and public transportation, so as to provide that
3 certain utilities and natural gas marketers shall return consumer deposits under certain
4 conditions; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 1 of Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general
8 provisions relating to public utilities, and public transportation, is amended by adding a new
9 Code section to read as follows:

10 "46-1-6.

11 Each retail supplier of electricity, natural gas, water, sewer, and telephone service, and each
12 natural gas marketer which requires the payment of a deposit from its residential
13 customers, shall return such deposit, with any legally required interest thereon, when such
14 customer has satisfactorily paid his or her charges on time for up to 24 consecutive months
15 unless a shorter time for such return of a deposit is otherwise provided by law or
16 regulation."

17 **SECTION 2.**

18 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2008.

19 **SECTION 3.**

20 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.